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Title:*h Need to involve local representatives in development activities for removal of poverty in KBK districts of Orissa.

SHRI KHAGAPATI PRADHANI (NOWRANGPUR): Several starvation deaths and sale of children were reported from the proposed K.B.K. districts of Orissa due to prevalence of extreme poverty in the erstwhile Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa. Several official enquiries were conducted in that area and it was found that those areas are inhabited by very poor people and they often suffer from drought and failure of crops. Our late beloved Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi also visited these areas, village to village, and confirmed this opinion that the above districts deserved some special consideration. However, this proposal took a concrete shape during the Tenth Lok Sabha and since then officers from Delhi and Orissa visit those districts and hold meetings with officials only. I do not know why local representatives like M.Ps and M.L.As are being by-passed.

I draw the attention of the Prime Minister to involve M.Ps and M.L.As in the discussion in future and release allotments immediately without further delay to rescue the affected people.